

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. The claims are in the format as required by 35 C.F.R. § 1.121.

1. (Currently amended) A spinal implant, comprising:
a top, wherein at least a portion of the top is ~~configured~~ shaped to contact a first vertebra;
a bottom, wherein at least a portion of the bottom is ~~configured~~ shaped to contact a second vertebrae vertebra;
an anterior side having:
a first curvature between a distal end and a proximal end; and
a first groove near said proximal end and extending from said top to said bottom;
a posterior side having:
a second curvature between said distal end and said proximal end; and
a second groove near said proximal end and extending from said top to said bottom, wherein said first groove and said second groove are located substantially equidistant from said proximal end, wherein the first curvature and the second curvature are substantially in the same direction; and
an opening extending through the spinal implant from the top to the bottom.
2. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 1, ~~further comprising a proximal end,~~ wherein the proximal end is substantially flat.
3. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 1, ~~further comprising a proximal end,~~ wherein the proximal end is substantially rounded.
4. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 1, ~~further comprising a distal end,~~ wherein the distal end is tapered.

5. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 1, ~~further comprising a distal end,~~ wherein the distal end is curved.
6. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the top comprises one or more protrusions configured to contact the first vertebra.
7. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the top comprises protrusions configured to contact the first vertebra, and wherein at least two of the protrusions differ in height, shape, or both.
8. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the top comprises protrusions configured to contact the first vertebra, and wherein the protrusions are in a radial pattern.
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the top comprises protrusions configured to contact the first vertebra, and wherein a first spacing between a first pair of adjacent protrusions differs from a second spacing between a second pair of adjacent protrusions.
11. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the bottom comprises one or more protrusions configured to contact the second vertebra.
12. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the bottom comprises protrusions configured to contact the second vertebra, and wherein at least two of the protrusions differ in height, shape, or both.
13. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the bottom comprises protrusions configured to contact the second vertebra, and wherein the protrusions are in a radial pattern.
14. (Cancelled).

15. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the bottom comprises protrusions configured to contact the second vertebra, and wherein a first spacing between a first pair of adjacent protrusions differs from a second spacing between a second pair of adjacent protrusions.

16. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein an inner surface of the anterior side comprises one or more projections extending into the opening, and wherein the one or more projections are configured to strengthen the implant.

17. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein an inner surface of the posterior side comprises one or more projections extending into the opening, and wherein the one or more projections are configured to strengthen the implant

18.-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 1, ~~wherein the anterior side comprises a first groove, wherein the posterior side comprises a second groove, and wherein the grooves are configured to engage an insertion instrument.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 1, ~~further comprising a proximal end, and wherein the proximal end comprises one or more grooves configured to engage an insertion instrument.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 1, ~~further comprising a distal end, and wherein the distal end comprises one or more grooves configured to engage an insertion instrument.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 1, further comprising one or more openings extending through the anterior side, the posterior side, or both the anterior side and the posterior side.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, further comprising one or more openings extending through the anterior side and one or more openings extending through the posterior side, and wherein at least one of the anterior side openings aligns with at least one of the posterior side openings to allow for monitoring of bone growth through the implant.
26. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the spinal implant comprises bone.
27. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the spinal implant comprises polyether ether ketone.
28. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the spinal implant comprises one or more openings for X-ray sensitive material.
29. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the spinal implant comprises metal.
30. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the spinal implant comprises titanium.
31. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the top is treated to promote osseointegration of the implant with bone.
32. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the top is roughened to promote fusion of the spinal implant with bone.
33. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 1, wherein the opening is ~~configured~~ shaped to receive packing material.
34. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, further comprising packing material placed in the opening, and wherein the packing material comprises bone.
35. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 1, further comprising packing material placed in the opening, wherein the packing material comprises synthetic bone material.

36. (Currently amended) A spinal implant, comprising:
a body, wherein the body comprises:
a top comprising ~~[[a]]~~ radially positioned top protrusions, wherein the top protrusions are ~~configured~~ shaped to contact a first vertebra;
a bottom comprising radially positioned bottom protrusions, wherein the bottom protrusions are ~~configured~~ shaped to contact a second vertebra;
a curved anterior side between a distal end and a proximal end;
a curved posterior side between said distal end and said proximal end, wherein a cross-section formed by the anterior side and the posterior side is substantially kidney-shaped;
two grooves recessing into said body from said top to said bottom on said anterior side and said posterior side, wherein said two grooves are located substantially equidistant from said proximal end; and
an opening extending through the body from the top to the bottom.
37. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 36, wherein the top protrusions near the anterior side are coarser than the top protrusions near the posterior side.
38. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 36, wherein the bottom protrusions near the anterior side are coarser than the bottom protrusions near the posterior side.
39. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 36, wherein at least two of the top protrusions differ in height, shape, or both.
40. (Cancelled).
41. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 36, wherein a first spacing between a first pair of adjacent top protrusions differs from a second spacing between a second pair of adjacent top protrusions.
42. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 36, wherein at least two of the bottom protrusions differ in height, shape, or both.

43. (Cancelled).

44. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 36, wherein a first spacing between a first pair of adjacent bottom protrusions differs from a second spacing between a second pair of adjacent bottom protrusions.

45. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 36, wherein the top protrusions near the posterior side of the body are larger than the top protrusions near the anterior side of the body.

46. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 36, wherein the top protrusions near the posterior side of the body are higher than the top protrusions near the anterior side of the body.

47. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 36, wherein the bottom protrusions near the posterior side of the body are larger than the bottom protrusions near the anterior side of the body.

48. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 36, wherein the bottom protrusions near the posterior side of the body are higher than the bottom protrusions near the anterior side of the body.

49. (Currently amended) A spinal implant, comprising:

a body, wherein the body comprises:

a distal end;

a proximal end;

a curved anterior side between said distal end and said proximal end;

a curved posterior side between said distal end and said proximal end;

a top comprising top protrusions near said anterior side and said posterior side,

wherein the top protrusions near the anterior side are finer than the top protrusions near the posterior side;

a bottom;

two grooves recessing into said body from said top to said bottom on said

anterior side and said posterior side, wherein said two grooves are located substantially equidistant from said proximal end; and

an opening extending through the body from the top to the bottom,
wherein the body is substantially kidney shaped.

50. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 49, wherein the bottom further comprises bottom protrusions near said anterior side and said posterior side, and wherein the bottom protrusions near the anterior side are finer than the bottom protrusions near the posterior side.

51. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 49, wherein the bottom further comprises bottom protrusions near said anterior side and said posterior side, and wherein the bottom protrusions near the anterior side are coarser than the bottom protrusions near the posterior side.

52. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 49, wherein the bottom further comprises bottom protrusions, wherein the bottom protrusions near the anterior side comprise a first radial pattern, and wherein the bottom protrusions near the posterior side comprise a second radial pattern.

53. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 49, wherein the top protrusions near the anterior side comprise a radial pattern.

54. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 49, wherein the top protrusions near the posterior side comprise a radial pattern.

55.-56. (Cancelled).

57. (Currently Amended) The spinal implant of claim 49, further comprising one or more openings extending through the anterior side, the posterior side, or both the anterior side and the posterior side.

58. (Original) The spinal implant of claim 49, further comprising one or more openings extending

through the anterior side and one or more openings extending through the posterior side, and wherein at least one of the anterior side openings aligns with at least one of the posterior side openings to allow monitoring of bone growth through the body.

59-95. (Cancelled).

96. (Previously Presented) The spinal implant of claim 1 wherein the first curvature is substantially similar to the second curvature.

97. (Previously Presented) The spinal implant of claim 1 wherein the first and second curvature form a substantially kidney-shaped cross-section.